

Message Text

SECRET

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 L-02

PM-07 DODE-00 DRC-01 /057 W
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O 042045Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3406

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAGUA 0446

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SALVADOR/HONDURAS DISPUTE

1. WHILE MEETING WITH GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA ON ANOTHER SUBJECT THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 4, 1974, SALVADORAN PRESIDENT MOLINA TELEPHONED SOMOZA AND SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE "EXTERMELY IN-DISCREET" PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER, FACIO, OF MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN HEADS OF STATE, THAT HE (MOLINA) HAD BEEN PLACED IN AN "IMPOSSIBLE" POLITICAL POSITION IN EL SALVADOR IN VIEW OF THE UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS. MOLINA SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT FIGUERES ASKING HIM TO COME TO COSTA RICA, APPARENTLY WITH THE THOUGHT IN MIND OF EXPLAINING THE "IN-DISCRETION". MOLINA TOLD SOMOZA THAT HE WOULD NOT GO TO COSTA RICA AND THAT IN VIEW OF THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY FACIO HE COULD NOT POSSIBLY GO THROUGH WITH THE MEETING AT JALAPA SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 8.

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2. IN ORDER TO AVOID A BREAKDOWN IN THE PROPOSED MEETINGS, SOMOZA TELEPHONED HONDURAN GENERAL LOPEZ AND TOLD HIM THAT THE NICARAGUAN EMBASSY IN EL SALVADOR HAD INFORMED HIM (SOMOZA) THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROPOSED MEETING WAS CAUSING GREAT DIFFICULTY FOR MOLINA. WITHOUT MENTIONING MOLINA'S TELEPHONE CALL, SOMOZA SUGGESTED TO LOPEZ THAT IT MIGHT BETTER TO POSTPONE MEETING UNTIL ONE WEEK AFTER EL SALVADORAN ELECTIONS. LOPEZ PROMPTLY AGREED AND REITERATED THE STATEMENT HE HAD MADE TO SOMOZA DURING THEIR MEETING IN MANAGUA FEBRUARY 1, THAT HE WAS "ABSOLUTELY DEDICATED TO THE BELIEF THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HONDURAS AND SALVADOR MUST BE SETTLED."

3. PRESIDENT ARANA OF GUATEMALA SO CALLED SOMOZA DURING MY MEETING WITH HIM TO ASK HIM IF IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR HIM (SOMOZA) TO RECEIVE THE GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER, FEBRUARY 5, FOR A PRIVATE DISCUSSION. SOMOZA AGREED. THE SUBJECT MATTER WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

4. SOMOZA IS NOW IN PROCESS OF RESCHEDULING JALAPA MEETING FOR WEEK AFTER SALVADORAN ELECTIONS.
SHELTON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BORDER INCIDENTS, MEETINGS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANAGU00446
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740258/aaaaccjf.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SALVADOR/HONDURAS DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, NU, (SOMOZA, ANASTASIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005